March
1959
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The Ladder

purpose of the

Daughters of BILITIS

A WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL INTO SOCIETY BY:

1. Education of the variant, with particular emphasis on the psychological, physiological and sociological aspects, to enable her to understand herself and make her adjustment to society in all its social, civic and economic implications——this to be accomplished by establishing and maintaining as complete a library as possible of both fiction and non-fiction literature on the sex deviant theme; by sponsoring public discussions on pertinent subjects to be conducted by leading members of the legal, psychiatric, religious and other professions; by advocating a mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society.

2. Education of the public at large through acceptance first of the individual, leading to an eventual breakdown of erroneous taboos and prejudices; through public discussion meetings aforementioned; through dissemination of educational literature on the homosexual theme.

3. Participation in research projects by duly authorized and responsible psychologists, sociologists and other such experts directed towards further knowledge of the homosexual.

4. Investigation of the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual, proposal of changes to provide an equitable handling of cases involving this minority group, and promotion of these changes through due process of law in the state legislatures.

the Ladder

MARCH 1959
Volume 3, Number 6

Published monthly by the Daughters of Bilitis, Inc., a non-profit corporation, 165 O'Farrell Street, Room 405, San Francisco 2, California. Telephone YUkon 2-9290.

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THE LADDER is regarded as a sounding board for various points of view on the homophile and related subjects and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the organization.

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Cover by Kerry

One Institute

Mental Health and Homosexuality

BY STEN RUSSELL

THE 1959 MIDWINTER INSTITUTE SPONSORED BY ONE, INC. WAS HELD IN LOS ANGELES JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 1. THEME FOR DISCUSSION WAS "MENTAL HEALTH AND HOMOSEXUALITY."

HOMOPHILE MOVEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY

DEL MARTIN, PRESIDENT OF THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, SAN FRANCISCO, GAVE A RESUME OF THE PURPOSE OF THE LADDER AND ITS CONTENTS DURING THE LAST YEAR. SHE MENTIONED SOME OF THE PROJECTS WHICH THE DAUGHTERS HAD SPONSORED, INCLUDING SOCIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL QUESTIONNAIRES CIRCULATED AMONG LESBIANS.

REGARDING PROGRESS IN THE FIELD, SHE REFERRED TO DR. KARL BOWMAN'S SPEECH ON HOMOSEXUALITY BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB IN SAN FRANCISCO. WHILE THE "SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER" BURIED THE SPEECH, IT MADE HEADLINES AND A BIG WRITE-UP IN "THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE". THE REPORTER SEEMED MOST IMPRESSED BY ONE OF BOWMAN'S POINTS THAT THE HOMOSEXUAL SOCIAL PROBLEM MIGHT NEVER BE SOLVED DUE TO THE FEAR AND LATENT HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE REST OF THE POPULATION. SHE REFERRED ALSO TO A PRECEDENT-BREAKING TWO-HOUR DISCUSSION OF HOMOSEXUALITY GIVEN OVER RADIO STATION KPFA LAST YEAR, WHICH WAS ENTITLED "THE HOMOSEXUAL IN OUR SOCIETY" AND WHICH FEATURED OUTSTANDING CITIZENS OF THE BAY AREA.

ONE OF THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLES OF PROGRESS FOR THE HOMOPHILE WAS EVIDENCED IN THE SUCCESSFUL LEGAL BATTLE TO KEEP GAY BARS FROM BEING CLOSED DOWN, OR ANY BARS, SIMPLY BECAUSE SOME OR MOST OF THEIR CLIENTELE HAPPENED TO BE HOMOSEXUALS. MISS MARTIN WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED, NOT ONLY BECAUSE THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF HOMOSEXUALS HAD BEEN UPHELD BUT BECAUSE THE HOMOPHILES THEMSELVES, BY THEIR CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES AS REPORTED IN THE LADDER, HAD BEEN OF SOME HELP IN THE CASE. MORRIS LOWENTHAL, SAN FRANCISCO ATTORNEY, HAD CONTACTED MISS MARTIN FOR COPIES OF THE LADDER IN

WORK ON THE AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF FOR THE "MARY'S FIRST AND LAST CHANCE (BAR)" CASE. THE APPEALING BRIEF GAVE A HISTORY OF THE HOMOPHILE MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN PARTICULAR GAVE EXCERPTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1958 LADDER ISSUES. IT ALSO INCLUDED THE TWO ISSUES IN QUESTION AS EXHIBITS IN THE CASE.

MISS MARTIN READ PORTIONS OF THE FAVORABLE DECISION HANDED DOWN IN WHICH IT WAS MADE CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT IT WAS NO CRIME TO BE A HOMOSEXUAL OR A "SO-CALLED' PERVERT" IN A BAR SO LONG AS NO IMMORAL OR ILLEGAL ACTS WERE COMMITTED WHILE THERE. SO FAR AS THE BAR OWNER WAS CONCERNED, HE WAS NOT ONLY NOT LIABLE FOR THE FACT THAT HOMOSEXUALS WERE PRESENT IN HIS BAR, BUT HE WAS NOT LIABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS IF THEY HAPPENED TO BE IMMORAL OR ILLEGAL. UNLESS IT COULD BE PROVEN THAT HE HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THESE ACTS AND DID NOTHING TO STOP THEM.

RICK HOOPER, CHAIRMAN, MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC., SAN FRANCISCO, CONFINED MOST OF HIS PROGRESS REPORT TO THE SOCIAL SERVICE DIVISION. HE MENTIONED THAT WHILE THIS WAS NOT YET A LEGALLY CONSTITUTED DEPARTMENT OF THE SOCIETY, IT WAS TO BE HOPED THAT IT SOON WOULD BE. THE NEED IS GREAT IN THIS FIELD; THE PROBLEMS ARE JUST AS GREAT. ON APRIL 4, 1959, MATTACHINE WILL HOLD A "SOCIAL SERVICE PLANNING DAY." MRS. FARLEY OF THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT. IN SAN FRANCISCO WILL SPEAK ON SOME OF THE PROBLEMS OF MENTAL HEALTH AND WELFARE. RICK SAID THAT IN THE PAST YEAR 300 HAD COME FOR HELP REGARDING THE NEED FOR REFERRAL TO ATTORNEYS WHO COULD HELP IN SUCH MATTERS AS BLACKMAIL, SEX OFFENSES, UNJUST COLLECTION ACCOUNTS, COURTS MARTIAL, DISHONORABLE DISCHARGES, ETC. IN EMPLOYMENT COUNSELING A DOZEN OR SO HAD BEEN PLACED. RICK FELT THAT THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO DO THE MOST GOOD IN LAY COUNSELING, HOWEVER. SOME OF THE ONES WHO CAME WITH DEEPER PROBLEMS THAT NEEDED PROFESSIONAL CARE WERE ABLE TO BE REFERRED TO THE "NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SERVICE LEAGUE." HE ADDED THAT SAN FRANCISCO MATTACHINE MEMBERSHIP MORE THAN DOUBLED IN 1958 AND THAT THERE NOW WERE 81 LOCAL MEMBERS.

JAMES KEPNER, JR., VICE CHAIRMAN, ONE, INC., LOS ANGELES, REFERRED TO ONE'S ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF JAN. 30, 1959, AND THE ANNUAL REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED ON THE ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS IN 1958. HE MENTIONED THE NEED FOR MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS BECAUSE THERE WERE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF HOMOSEXUALS. HE SAID THAT ONE WAS NOT A MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZA-

TION AND THAT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE ORGANIZED SOCIALIZING. HE MADE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE MAGAZINE AND CORPORATION. THE MAGAZINE WAS THE FIRST, AND STILL THE CORPORATION'S BIGGEST, PROJECT. HOWEVER THERE WERE OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND PROJECTS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE HOMOPHILE. HE SPOKE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAM AND OF INDIVIDUALISTS VS. INTEGRATIONISTS AND THE NEED TO EDUCATE BOTH IN THE HISTORY OF THE HOMOPHILE AS SOCIETY NEEDS BOTH THE INDIVIDUALIST AND THE INTEGRATIONIST POINT OF VIEW.

Accepting Middle Age

AT THE LUNCHEON THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 42 MEN AND 14 WOMEN TO HEAR A DELIGHTFUL ADDRESS BY T.M. MERRITT, PH.D., DEAN EMERITUS OF ONE INSTITUTE.

DR. MERRITT GAVE THREE THINGS YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD DO IN PREPARING FOR MIDDLE AND OLD AGE. (THIS HE DESIGNATED AS THE MOA GROUP.) YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD PLAN FOR FINANCIAL COMPETENCE IN THEIR LATER YEARS. ANNUITY INSURANCE WAS ONE METHOD HE MENTIONED WHICH COST VERY LITTLE TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND WHICH REAPED GREAT BENEFITS FOR THEM. YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD DEVELOP HOBBIES AND INTERESTS OUTSIDE THEMSELVES. THIRDLY, YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD TRY FOR THE TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP WHICH WAS MORE LIKELY TO BECOME A PERMANENT LOVE AFFAIR, FOR IF TWO YOUNG PEOPLE GROW OLD TOGETHER THE CHANGE WOULD BE SO GRADUAL THAT NEITHER WOULD EVER THINK OF THE OTHER OR OF HIMSELF AS BEING OLD.

DR. MERRITT GAVE A LIST OF ADVICE TO THE MOA GROUP LARDED WITH DELIGHTFUL ASIDES:

1. DON'T CRUISE.
2. RELAX.
3. DON'T EXPECT WHAT YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT GOING TO GET ANYWAY.
4. NEVER PRETEND TO BE WHAT YOU'RE NOT.
5. DON'T BE FAMILIAR WITH YOUTH. (I.E. DON'T SMILE AND WINK AT THE BOYS. DIGNITY HAS ITS OWN ATTRACTIONS.)
6. DON'T OFFER DRINKS TO STRANGERS.
7. DON'T SEEK COMPASSION BY HINTING AT YOUR AGE - SUCH COMPASSION DOES NOT EXIST.
8. DON'T TRY TO DANCE IF YOU CAN'T.
9. TRY TO CULTIVATE OUTSIDE INTERESTS.

DR. MERRITT GAVE SOME OF THE ADVANTAGES AGE HAS OVER YOUTH:

1. A LARGE AND VARIED EXPERIENCE WITH LIFE.
2. FINANCIAL COMPETENCE.
3. SPECIAL INTERESTS. AN EXAMPLE WAS A GENTLEMAN 90 YEARS OLD WHO IS KNOWN AS "MR. CALIFORNIA." THIS GENTLEMAN IS REPUTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT CALIFORNIA HISTORY THAN ANYONE ELSE. THE MORAL HERE SEEMED TO BE THAT THERE WERE GREAT ADVANTAGES TO BE HAD IN MAKING ONESELF AN AUTHORITY IN SOME SPECIAL FIELD OF KNOWLEDGE.
4. THE OLDER PERSON IS IN A POSITION TO OFFER GENUINE FRIENDSHIP AND FRIENDLINESS.

DR. MERRITT ENDED HIS ADDRESS ON THE NOTE THAT IF THE OLDER PERSON COULD LEARN TO ACCEPT HIMSELF, TO DEVELOP SATISFACTORY INTELLECTUAL PURSUITS AND HOBBIES, TO BE GOOD COMPANY WITH HIMSELF WHEN HE WAS ALONE, THEN HE NEVER NEEDED TO "CRUISE" FRANTICALLY NOR WORRY ABOUT HIS FATE, THAT FRIENDS WOULD INVARIABLY SEEK HIM OUT!

Panel Discussion

Eric Julber, attorney, Los Angeles, Chairman.
Blanche M. Baker, M.D., Ph.D., psychiatrist, San Francisco.
Trent E. Bessent, Ph.D., chief clinical psychologist, Metropolitan State Hospital, Norwalk, Calif.
W. Dorr Legg, A.B., B.M., M.L.D., director, ONE Institute.
Vita S. Sommers, Ph.D., clinical psychologist, Los Angeles.

Mr. Julber asked the members of the panel to give their general views on "Mental Health and Homosexuality" before proceeding to the panel discussion proper.

Dr. Bessent did not feel that the topic at hand necessarily had any inner relationship; that whether homosexuality and the problem of mental health related or not depended on the culture, the time and

the individual involved. He added that in his work at the hospital he dealt mostly with psychotic patients, people who had broken with reality. At the hospital, he and co-workers attempted to reduce the patients' anxiety.and to find out what fear or fears lay behind their anxiety. Among the many learned fears that can drive a person to the psychotic stage, Dr. Bessent listed the fear of homosexual tendencies. This, however, he emphasized, is a learned or cultural fear, instilled into the person, usually before the age of reason. The audience applauded Dr. Bessent. Mr. Julber requested that there be no more applause until the panel was over.

Dr. Blanche Baker said that her interest and concern with homosexuality had begun at an early age when much to her horror and surprise a female schoolmate fell in love with her. She said that fortunately she had an understanding father who gave her access to books on the subject so that she acquired enough of a learned viewpoint on the subject not to be cruel to her friend whom she did not understand. She said that her reading gave her the viewpoint that homosexuality was a mental illness, but that after years of psychiatric work and experience with both heterosexual and homosexual people she had come to entirely discard the concept of mental illness necessarily relating to homosexuality.

She said she felt that understanding homosexuality was the great problem of this civilization. She said everyone was a blend of masculine and feminine qualities; that the dangerous and common misconception that "men are men and women are women" was simply not true. She was greatly concerned over the "creative expression which hides behind a mask.... unused...unfulfilled." Because of this deep concern she has lent her support to the organizations ONE, Mattachine, and DOB whenever possible.

Those who felt homosexuality was a "crime against nature" simply did not know nature, she contended. "The animals do everything people do in the sexual realm. The problems of the homophile are simply

the problems of a person who is misunderstood."

Dr. Baker thanked us for the honor of letting her attend the panel and added that although she had been advised by both doctor and friends not to attend because of the state of her health, that she would have come against all odds. There could be no doubt in the audience's mind as to the serious physical handicap which Dr. Baker was working against in attending the Institute and it broke into spontaneous and wild applause for this great and courageous friend of the homophile and the homophile movement. After that there was no hope for the chairman's plea that no individual speaker be applauded.

Dr. Vida Sommers said that her work was of a clinical nature with special groups of homosexuals who would like to change. She said that she did not necessarily feel that homosexuality was a clinical entity. It had various forms of expression. She said that she came to the Institute to learn from the homophiles there rather than to speak to them.

W. Dorr Legg asked the question, "Is homosexuality a defense mechanism, necessarily or can it be a healthy, important part of society? Society needs the homophile and if it doesn't have him in a recognized, constructive role, society will go down to the destruction of previous civilizations," Mr. Legg continued.

Mr. Julber directed the question to Dr. Bessent: "Suppose society's attitude changed towards homosexuality over the next 10 to 20 years; would this cure much homosexual anxiety?"

Dr. Bessent answered, "No, not for those who have their own interjected feelings against homosexuality." A person asked Dr. Bessent from the floor how this could be when the person would then be raised in an accepting environment? Dr. Bessent said that such a case could only exist many steps forward in the process. He cited the instance of many cases of "mas-

turbation guilt" which come to the hospital; yet, he pointed out, society's attitude has been most benign of recent years. The point is: children aren't raised by "society" in general, but by people in particular, who may have radically different views and prejudices than the prevailing temper of the times.

Another questioner from the floor asked Dr. Baker her opinion of the efficacy of "group therapy" vs. "individual therapy." Dr. Baker answered that there was no "versus" involved; that both were wonderful and indispensable. Dr. Sommers agreed and gave examples of helpful group therapy. She added that group therapy was paricularly helpful in convincing disturbed homosexuals that they were not nearly so unique and different from other people as they thought.

Dr. Sommers said that she believed the answers to homosexuality lay in "multiple causes" and the interaction between the psychological and sociological sides of life. The question was: "Why did this person choose this type of adjustment?"

Dr. Bessent said that the program he worked for aimed at reducing anxiety so that the persons so afflicted could function in society or learn to relate to even one other person. He said that they were not interested in changing one's sexual adjustment if that seemed the best adjustment for that particular person.

Dr. Evelyn Hooker, currently at work on a research project called the "The Homosexual Community," queried the panel from the floor regarding the question: "Are homosexuals necessarily maladjusted; i.e. is there any inherent relation between homosexuality and mental illness?" Mr. Julber asked her to give her views on the question.

Dr. Hooker did not feel that would be proper under the circumstances, but after a brief intellectual struggle with Mr. Julber did state that the purpose of her investigations was to <u>prove or disprove the</u>

concept that homosexuality was either a mental illness or a symptom of a mental illness. As to her personal views, she said that she had a very tentative "no" in mind as she felt that she had concrete evidence to disprove the concepts. However, she continued, her evidence was only a pioneer kind of evidence and she wanted other researchers to bring in all the evidence, to research it from all levels and viewpoints. She said that in her work she searched for non-psychotic, non-maladjusted homosexuals. To find one, she said, would serve her purpose of jogging other researchers in the social sciences to investigate this field from different premises than heretofore. Actually, however, she had found many who were non-psychotic and non-maladjusted to society.

Dr. Baker concurred completely with Dr. Hooker. In medical practice naturally one found all types of maladjusted homosexuals because they were seeking help. However, in her social life and contacts she said she knew so many who were not disturbed or maladjusted.

Dr. Bessent felt that he had already covered the matter, but he stated again that he felt there was no necessary connection between homosexuality and mental illness; that it was a matter of cultural demands and prejudices which cause our anxieties.

Dr. Sommers also concurred but said that "adjustment to what?" had to be considered. After all, this is a heterosexual society; if you are not heterosexual, by heterosexual standards you would be considered maladjusted. She added that there was also a large group of maladjusted heterosexuals.

Dr. Hooker wasn't looking for concurrence and she didn't want her "tentative no" to be interpreted as the final answer in lieu of conclusive proof on the matter.

Mr. Legg asked, "What is <u>heterosexuality</u> a defense against?" This question didn't sound quite so rid-

iculous when Mr. Legg followed it with the suggestion that ONE Magazine might have a series called "How Normal Can You Get?" illustrated by newspaper excerpts of cases like the mother who boiled the baby to death on the stove. He added that a study of biology would show that "nature" was not nearly as interested in reproduction as we've been led to believe.

A questioner from the floor asked Mr. Julber how we should go about getting the laws changed. Mr. Julber said "Just what we've been doing the last seven years." Mr. Julber continued that there must be much spade work to soften up public opinion first. The young man did not agree, "But wouldn't a change first in the laws accomplish this?" "No," said Mr. Julber, "statute follows public opinion, not the other way around."

Roundtable Discussion

MUST CHRISTIANS LIVE WITH GUILT?
Moderators: Rt. Rev. Thomas Martin &Father Newman

The discussion was attended by approximately 19 men and 11 women. Father Martin introduced himself and Father Newman as workers for 18 years in the field of homophile problems and in helping homophiles to overcome their conflicts. Father Newman spoke for a short time on his interpretation of the question. He rephrased it to ask, "Is it necessary for one to have guilt?" He felt that it was not. He contended that there was no condemnation by Christ anywhere in the New Testament against homosexuality, per se. He asked, -- "Why should any man feel guilty for following his natural inborn traits given 'm by God?" Good question; it seemed strange to hear a minister ask it though.

He took a dim view of St. Paul's writings wherein much of the condemnation against homosexuality or any kind of sex is to be found. He felt that St. Paul lived one thing and preached another. He said that there was proof that Timothy was a beloved of

Paul's. He cited the 18th Lesson of the 47th Verse of the Bhagavad Gita as having merit for us. He interpreted it to mean that it was better to follow one's inner traits than to live in a manner not fitted to one. He cited an interesting passage from St. Thomas (the doubting apostle) to the effect that until man learned that he was really two spirits in one body, he would not know God.

Father Martin asked for questions and round-table discussion of the problem. Nothing happened for a few minutes. The people seemed frozen, whether through fear or awe was hard to know. Finally one soul ventured that the people seemed stunned at the possibility that ministers might understand and accept their problems as being very little different from other people's problems and that perhaps someday they might sit in a church of their choice and be accepted and recognized as homosexuals without any fear or guilt.

Father Newman said that it was perhaps for that reason they were here. One member asked where the concept of sex being so awful came from? Another member felt that it was as Father Newman had said, if you stayed with the ancient writings you were all right; that it was when you got into churches proper that you had troubles. One brought up the problem of having confessed to a priest and having had the man betray his confidence to people he worked with. It gave him a pretty dim view of religion. Father Newman stated that the priest had not really been a Christian in his heart or he would not have done it. Another member of the group told some good stories about priests to counteract the bad impressions given.

One member felt that homosexuals were mistaken in feeling that only they were condemned to living with guilt in the Christian churches. She felt that in all churches sex itself was taught to be a sin except wherein it was used to beget children within the marriage contract, and then the people involved weren't supposed to really enjoy this experience. About the time the group seemed to be thawing out and getting

over its timidity it was time for the discussion to be over.

One person got in a last minute question: Who were these ministers and what church had they come from? They spoke differently from any other ministers she'd ever seen or heard. Father Martin gave her a card which read: "Rt. Rev. Thomas Martin, Abbot; Saint George Chapel and Monastery, The Church of Divine Love, Eastern Orthodox: 1580 Bledsoe Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada." She asked if that were some offshoot of the Catholic Church. Father Martin said that it was not. Father Newman said the church had been in existence since 64 A.D. and that it stemmed from the teachings of St. Thomas, the doubting apostle. It then became clear what had caused a certain lack of communication between the moderators and the group. They were not connected with any of the commonly known Christian churches which have managed to infect most Christian homosexuals with a deep guilt as to their basic natures, if not most Christian heterosexual people as well.

There is a certain bafflement in speaking to, or in front of, what seem to be orthodox ministers, when these same ministers seem to feel there is no reason whatever a homosexual should feel guilty about his nature. Any orthodox minister, enlightened or otherwise, would know the emotional bias in most Christian churches and society itself which surrounds the subject of homosexuality or "perversion." If the minister had been working in a different context, however, and had no deep prejudices drilled into him, it is reasonable why he should think that logic alone should solve any problems in the matter.

SHOULD MEN AND WOMEN HOMOSEXUALS ASSOCIATE?
Mrs. V. Vostwald, Moderator

There were eleven women and seven men present at the discussion. Mrs. Vostwald posed the question, "Why do people associate?" "Mutual interest; business; religion; man is a social animal, and sex" were the

answers given by the group. Mrs. Vostwald asked if it was the lack of mutual sex interest which kept the homosexual men and women apart?

NEUROTIC HOSTILITY

One felt that it was not just the lack of sexual attraction, but a positive neurotic hostility to be found in both groups. The group didn't do much with this thought but generally agreed that there was a need for the mingling of both sexes to share thoughts and attitudes with each other. It felt this was much healthier than strict separation of the groups. One male married couple felt that this was all very well but that in all their experience of trying to have mutual friends among the Lesbian group they had been frustrated. They didn't know whether it meant that they personally were disliked and unlikeable, or whether it meant that Lesbians were generally difficult people who did not wish to associate with male homosexuals.

The thoughts and justifications brought up by some of the women on this problem were very interesting. Some felt that the reason their invitations had not been returned was due to the difference between the way the men and women lived...that where frequently the men were accomplished and able to entertain on a grand scale, that the women in most cases were not and that since they were unable to return in kind what they had so bountifully received, they returned nothing. This particular aspect was continued after the roundtable with many insights being gained on the matter by the participants.

Mrs. Vostwald posed the question, "Do we have a social responsibility to fraternize?" The concensus seemed to be that we did, but it was brought out strongly in one quarter that no one should be forced into such relationships unless they so desired. This faction felt that all that could be done was being done in such co-educational ventures as the ONE Midwinter Institute. The roundtable was quite successful with much participation from both sexes.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION AS THERAPY

DAWN FREDERIC, MODERATOR.

BY WAY OF DEFINITION IT WAS OFFERED THAT "CREATIVE EXPRESSION" IS SELF EXPRESSION REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT IS AN ART FORM. "THERAPY" MAY BE EITHER TREATMENT OR PREVENTIVE. THIS FORM OF THERAPY IS USED BECAUSE THERE IS OFTEN AN INABILITY TO EXPRESS ANYTHING AN SOME MENTAL ILLNESS AND ALL MENTAL ILLNESS INVOLVES ISOLATION AND INABILITY TO EXPRESS AND IDENTIFY. CONTACT WITH ENVIRONMENT COMES WITH ABILITY TO EXPRESS SELF. CREATIVE EXPRESSION CAN ALSO BE USED IN DIAGNOSIS.

THE GROUP TOSSED AROUND DEFINITIONS FOR A TIME, BOGGING DOWN SOMEWHAT IN AN ATTEMPT TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN ART, ACTUAL CREATIVE TALENT, HOBBIES, ETC. IT WAS AGREED THAT CREATIVE EXPRESSION DOES NOT BECOME THERAPEUTIC UNTIL IT IS SHARED WITH OTHERS.

SEX REPRESSION AND MENTAL HEALTH

RON ARGALL, MODERATOR.

THE QUESTION WAS POSED, "DOES THE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOSTER SEX REPRESSION OR DOES IT HELP TO OVERCOME SUCH SITUATIONS?" THE GROUP FELT THAT MOST LIKELY OUR MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM IS REPRESSIVE, BUT THAT THIS IS BECAUSE IT IS A GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAM BASED ON TAX DOLLARS AND POLITICAL WHIM AND WOULD MOST CERTAINLY BE OF CONFORMIST NATURE IN THESE EARLY FORMATIVE YEARS.

VERY LIKELY MANY OR MOST SEX CRIMES ARE IN SOME WAY A RESULT OF SEX REPRESSION AND CENSORSHIP AND REPRESSIVE LEGISLATION CANNOT IMPROVE THE STATUS QUO. IT WAS OFFERED BY ONE MEMBER OF THE GROUP THAT ONE MAY BE MENTALLY HEALTHY EVEN THOUGH SEXUALLY REPRESSED. AN INSTINCTIVE TENDENCY CANNOT BE DESTROYED, BUT IT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MANY WAYS AND DOES NOT HAVE TO BE REPRESSED IN A GIVEN WAY. THERE ARE ACCEPTABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE METHODS OF EXPRESSION AND IN THE CASES OF SATISFACTORY SUBLIMATION, THE INDIVIDUAL NEED NOT SUFFER DETERIORATED MENTAL HEALTH. MENTAL HOSPITALS AND CLINICS DO NOT GIVE MUCH THOUGHT TO THESE PHILOSOPHICAL CONCEPTS FOR THEY ARE IN TOUCH PRIMARILY WITH PEOPLE WHOSE REPRESSIONS AND ANXIETIES HAVE GOT THE BETTER OF THEM. UNDOUBTEDLY MANY REASONABLY OR HIGHLY INTEGRATED AND HEALTHY PERSONS ARE SEXUALLY REPRESSED BUT HAVE OTHER MEANS OF EXPRESSION.

(THE ABOVE TWO SESSIONS REPORTED ON BY HELEN SANDERS)

IS HOMOSEXUALITY NATURAL?
JIM KEPNER, MODERATOR.

THE MODERATOR OPENED THE DISCUSSION AS TO WHETHER THE TERM NATURAL MEANT NORMAL OR AVERAGE AND IF THE SEX PLEASURE PRINCIPLE WERE TO BE CONSIDERED AS WELL AS THE "SEX FOR PROCREATION ONLY" THEOREM. HE POINTED OUT DR. ALBERT ELLIS' PREMISE THAT EXCLUSIVE HOMOSEXUAL OR EXCLUSIVE HETEROSEXUAL CONDUCT WAS NEUROTIC.

ONE WOMAN SUGGESTED THAT THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF THE NATURALNESS OF HOMOSEXUALITY WOULD DEPEND ON IF ONE SUBSCRIBED TO THE SCIENTIFIC OR THE RELIGIOUS POINT OF VIEW. SHE QUOTED FROM SPEECHES MADE BY DR. FRANK BEACH JR. AND DR. WARDELL B. POMEROY AS REPORTED IN PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE LADDER AND POINTED OUT THAT BOTH THESE MEN HAVE STATED FLATLY THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS PART OF OUR MAMMALIAN HERITAGE, THAT IT IS PREVALENT IN ALL SPECIES OF ANIMAL AND THEREFORE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED UNNATURAL.

ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL SUGGESTED THAT BEHAVIOR COULD BE CONSIDERED UNNATURAL WHERE ADJUSTMENT HAS NOT BEEN MADE - WHERE HOMOSEXUAL TENDENCIES DO EXIST AND CANNOT BE ESCAPED. IT WAS FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS A STATE OF BEING AND NOT JUST A PHYSICAL EXPRESSION, THAT THE FACT A PERSON WAS A HOMOSEXUAL BEFORE KNOWING ABOUT OR DESIRING THE SEX ACT WOULD INDICATE SOME OTHER FACTOR WAS INVOLVED. HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR, HE INDICATED, DOES NOT NECESSARILY INVOLVE "CHOICE."

THE FACT THAT EACH CULTURE DETERMINES WHAT BEHAVIOR IS NATURAL OR UNNATURAL WAS ALSO BROUGHT OUT. WHAT IS NATURAL IN ONE CULTURE MAY BE CONSIDERED UNNATURAL IN ANOTHER AND VICE VERSA. IT WAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT MANY PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE IN THE FIELD OF PSYCHOLOGY MAINTAIN THAT THERE IS A HOMOSEXUAL COMPONENT IN ALL PEOPLE AND THEREFORE IT COULD HARDLY BE AN "UNNATURAL" PHENOMENON.

WHY THE QUESTION AT ALL BEFORE THE GROUP? SOMEONE ASKED. THE ANSWER LAY IN THE PROBLEM OF LEGAL DEFINITION IN THE COURTS, IN THE RELIGIOUS POINT OF VIEW, AND IN THE SCIENTIFIC QUESTION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HOMOSEXUALITY CAN BE CURED.

IT WAS CONCLUDED BY THE GROUP THAT THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HOMOSEXUALITY WAS NATURAL WOULD BE RELEVANT AS LONG AS PEOPLE WERE DISTURBED BY THE QUESTION.

ADJUSTMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

DON AND JON, MODERATORS

THE NEED FOR A COURTSHIP BEFORE A HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE WAS POINTED UP IN DISCUSSING NECESSARY FACTORS FOR EVOLVING A PERMANENT RELATIONSHIP. A BASIC FRIENDSHIP, COMPANIONSHIP, COMMON INTERESTS AND COMMUNITY PROPERTY WERE ALSO FOUND TO BE COMPONENTS OF SUCH A RELATIONSHIP.

ONE MAN WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS AN ANALYST SAID THAT ONE OF THE CHIEF PROBLEMS HE DEALT WITH IN MARRIAGE COUNSELING WAS THE IMBALANCE THE PARTIES FELT IN WHAT EACH CONTRIBUTED TO THE UNION. DIFFERENCE IN INCOME IS OFTEN A FACTOR HERE, HE SAID, AND SUGGESTED THAT THOSE SO DISTURBED DRAW UP A BALANCE SHEET OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR EACH PARTNER AND SO DETERMINE THAT WHILE ONE MAY NOT BE CONTRIBUTING AS MUCH MONEY, HE CERTAINLY MAY BE CONTRIBUTING MANY INTANGIBLES OF NET WORTH TO THE RELATIONSHIP.

DIFFERENCE IN AGE NEED NOT BE A FACTOR, IT WAS SAID. IT WOULD DEPEND OF COURSE ON THE RESILIENCE OF THE ELDER AND THE ABILITY OF THE YOUNGER TO ADAPT.

WARNING WAS ISSUED THAT JEALOUSY AND DEMAND FOR ABSOLUTE FIDELITY COULD BE MOST DESTRUCTIVE IN ITS EFFECT ON A MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP.

(THE ABOVE TWO SESSIONS REPORTED ON BY DEL MARTIN)

PSYCHODRAMA - 'A MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM DEMONSTRATED' WITH AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION. CONDUCTED BY WILLIAM F. BAKER, SAN FRANCISCO PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLOR.

MR. BAKER GAVE A SHORT HISTORY OF "ROLE PLAYING" FROM THE ANCIENT GREEKS TO THE MODERN "PSYCHODRAMA." THE PSYCHODRAMA AS SUCH IS OF RECENT ORIGIN AND USED PRIMARILY BY PSYCHOLOGISTS AND PSYCHIATRISTS IN GROUP THERAPY WORK WITH PATIENTS IN MENTAL HOSPITALS.

MR. BAKER USED MEMBERS FROM THE AUDIENCE TO DEMONSTRATE THE TECHNIQUE OF PSYCHODRAMA. TWO SITUATIONS WERE CHOSEN: ONE, THAT OF A GAY BAR WHEREIN TWO HOMOSEXUAL MALES SEATED ALONGSIDE TWO HETEROSEXUAL MALES (ONE A REPRESSED HOMOSEXUAL) REACT VARIOUSLY TO THE ENTRANCE OF AN OBVIOUS "SWISH." TWO, THAT OF A "NORMAL"FAMILY

WHEREIN FATHER, MOTHER AND YOUNGER BROTHER AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF 18-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER AT THE DINNER TABLE. DAUGHTER HAS JUST DISCOVERED THAT SHE IS A LESBIAN AND PLANS ON MOVING OUT.

THE AUDIENCE HUGELY ENJOYED THE EXTEMPORANEOUS PERFORMANCES. MR. BAKER INTERRUPTED THE ENJOYMENT TO EXPLAIN THAT IN PRACTICE NOT MORE THAN EIGHT TO TEN PEOPLE COULD BE PERMITTED IN SUCH ACTIVITY AS THE AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION MADE THE "ACTOR" SELF-CONSCIOUS AND ENDED THE THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF THE PERFORMANCE. MR. BAKER HAD EARLIER POINTED OUT THAT THE VALUE OF THIS TECHNIQUE WAS TWO-FOLD. THE INDIVIDUAL COULD ACT OUT HIS SECRET FRUSTRATIONS AND DESIRES WITHOUT PENALTY AND LATER IN CONSULTATION WITH HIS ANALYST COULD GET AT THE TRUE ROOTS OF HIS PROBLEMS.

ANNUAL BANQUET

DR. MARIO PALMIERI, WORLD FAMOUS CONSULTING ENGINEER AND WRITER, GAVE A SHORT AND MOVING ADDRESS ON THE TOPIC OF "CLASSICAL BOY LOVE" AS CONCEIVED AND PRACTICED BY THE ANCIENT GREEK STATESMEN AND PHILOSOPHERS. DR. PALMIERI CITED PARALLEL AND ATTENDANT PROBLEMS OF THIS PHENOMENON IN MODERN CIVILIZATION. DON SLATER, EDITOR OF ONE MAGAZINE, WAS TOASTMASTER.

TEA AND POETRY

THE "TEA AND POETRY" SESSION, DIRECTED BY THE ONE AND ONLY "SAMSON", PROVIDED A DELIGHTFUL ENDING TO ONE OF THE BEST MIDWINTER INSTITUTES EVER ATTENDED. THERE WAS AN ARRAY OF BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR TALENT.

W. DORR LEGG READ POEMS FROM THE "GREEK ANTHOLOGY" AND "THE SONNETS" OF MICHELANGELO. ANTONIO REYES HELD THE CROWD SPELLBOUND WITH HIS MASTERY OF TRADITIONAL SPANISH DANCES. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. PINA ON THE PIANO.

SOME MODERN POEMS WERE MOVINGLY READ BY MORGAN FARLEY, A NOTED ACTOR. ESPECIALLY STIRRING WAS "SAILOR BOY" FROM "DEATH OF THE SCHARNHORST." RACHEL ROSENTHAL, ACTRESS AND DRAMA COACH, READ "SONGS OF SAPPHO" ATTIRED IN A STRIKING WHITE COSTUME REMINISCENT OF A GRECIAN NYMPH. LATER SHE READ MORE MODERN POEMS FROM J. PHOENICE AND EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY. THE AUDIENCE WAS HELD RAPT BY THE MUSICAL QUALITY OF HER VOICE AND HER BEAUTY.

AFTER THE INTERMISSION, DOYLE EUGENE LIVINGSTON READ "THE MOON QUEEN", A POETIC ORIENTAL-FANTASY IN ONE ACT - A FIRST PERFORMANCE. MR. LIVINGSTON IS AN UNUSUAL YOUNG ARTIST IN THAT HE CAN PRESENT AND ACT OUT HIS OWN POETRY PROBABLY BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE WOULD EVER BE ABLE TO.

AS AN ENCORE MR. LIVINGSTON READ EXCERPTS FROM A BRILLIANT POETIC SATIRE HE HAD DONE. HIS RAPIER THRUSTS OF WIT AND ACTING SKILL BROUGHT THE HOUSE DOWN.

AFTERWARDS, TEA AND DELICIOUS HOMEMADE COOKIES WERE SERVED BY JON AND DON, "THE HEAVENLY TWINS."

* * * * *

CHECKLIST ON LESBIANA TO BE PUBLISHED

Once again Marion Zimmer Bradley has announced that she will prepare and publish a "Checklist" covering Lesbian books.

This year's issue will contain a staggering number of new titles, with reviews, as well as a list of the name, author and a brief review of every Lesbian title ever published.

Mrs. Bradley advises that everyone who sent 50 cents or more last year will receive a free copy this year, provided they write her and verify their address.

Price for this year's larger list will be 25 cents a single copy, five for $1.00. The author states "because of paper costs I can't print a lot of extras. So, please, will anyone who wants one write and ask for it before March 15."

All interested should write to Marion Zimmer Bradley, Box 246, Rochester, Texas.

To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end of life.

- Robert Louis Stevenson

LESBIANA

95. THE VISITORS BY MARY MCMINNIES. HARCOURT, BRACE, 1958.

MILLY PURDOE WITH HER HUSBAND, AN ENGLISH FOREIGN SERVICE DIPLOMAT, IS IN KRAKOW, POLAND. SHE HAS AN AFFAIR WITH AN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT. SHE ALSO TAKES TIME TO ENTRANCE AND BREAK THE HEART OF LOVABLE BUFFOON, COUNTESS SOPHIE BIELSKA. MILLY FANCIES HERSELF AS AN EMMA BOVARY AND USES EVERYONE AROUND FOR HER OWN PURPOSES. SOPHIE IS ONE OF THE BEST FICTIONAL PORTRAYALS OF LESBIANISM. NOBLE AND FINE AND GIVING BY NATURE, SHE IS NO MATCH FOR THE RUTHLESS FLUTTER-HEADED MILLY. THE AUTHORESS IS OBVIOUSLY VERY SYMPATHETIC TO LESBIANISM. THIS IS AVAILABLE IN LIBRARIES.

96. THREE WOMEN BY MARCH HASTINGS. BEACON BOOKS, 1958, #8190.

BYRNE, SUCCESSFUL ARTIST, HAS LOVED GRETA SINCE THEIR CHILDHOOD DAYS. DUE TO AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT FOR WHICH BYRNE BLAMES HERSELF, GRETA'S MIND HAS SNAPPED AND SHE MUST BE CARED FOR LIKE A CHILD. BYRNE MEETS YOUNG PAULA AND THEY FALL IN LOVE (PAULA IS AGGRESSOR). BYRNE FINALLY AGREES TO HAVE GRETA PUT IN A REST HOME. KNOWING THAT SHE MAY BECOME VIOLENT, BYRNE ARRANGES TO HAVE PAULA SEE HER EX BOY FRIEND. SURE ENOUGH GRETA GOES BERSERK AND KILLS BYRNE. PAULA IS LEFT WITH NAUGHT BUT HAPPY MEMORIES AND WILLING AND PATIENT BOY FRIEND. NOT UNSYMPATHETIC, BUT OH MY.

97. THE MISCHIEF BY ASSIA DJEBAR. SIMON AND SCHUSTER, 1958.

QUITE WELL WRITTEN, AMBIVALENT NOVEL OF 20-YEAR-OLD NADIA WHO FALLS IN LOVE WITH A FORMER SCHOOL FRIEND, JEDLA. HOWEVER, JEDLA IS NOW MARRIED TO AN ATTRACTIVE YOUNG MAN. THE COMPLICATIONS ARISING ARE MANY AND CONFUSING. THE ENDING IS LESS THAN JOYOUS AND THE EMOTIONS ALL TOO MIXED. THE AUTHORESS IS A 20-YEAR-OLD NATIVE ALGERIAN NOW LIVING IN PARIS.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, March 11 - Daughters of Bilitis business meeting at 8 p.m., 2174 California St., San Francisco, basement apartment.

SUNDAY, March 15 - Annual DOB St. Patrick's Day brunch. TIME: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. PLACE: The Front, 600 Front St. at Jackson corner. PRICE: $1.50 per person. EVERYBODY WELCOME. This is a good way to introduce people, male or female, to the DOB, so bring your friends and come along.

FRIDAY, March 27 - Gab 'n Java, an informal discussion session for women only. At 8 p.m., 3927 Army St., San Francisco.

SATURDAY, April 4 - LADDER work party. We need your help in assembling, stapling, trimming and mailing THE LADDER. It is work, but also fun. From noon on at the DOB office, 165 O'Farrell St., San Francisco.

MATTACHINE EDUCATION HANDBOOK

The "Education Handbook" being prepared by the Education Division of the Mattachine Society will be published this Spring or early Summer. Advance orders are now being taken at $1.00 per copy at the Society's headquarters, 693 Mission St., Rm. 312, San Francisco.

The Handbook is a guide to work in organizations such as DOB, Mattachine and ONE, Inc. It has been almost a year and a half in preparation and over 30 people have collaborated in editing the syllabus of individual and group projects and organizational techniques.

The ten chapters comprise information on education through Faith and Work, the Spoken Word, The Written

Word, The Arts, Research, Topics, Organizational Liaison, Finances, Being One's Best Self, and The World Movement.

LESBIAN MOVIE PLANNED

"The Captive", a controversial 1927 play about Lesbianism, is about to be adapted to the screen according to a report in "Daily Variety".

THEY WALK IN SHADOW ... Recommended reading by ALBERT ELLIS, Ph.D., Psychologist, Author and Marriage Counselor

How 'Gay' Are You?

DON'T BE TOO SURE... UNTIL YOU'VE READ

THEY WALK IN SHADOW

A FIRST! Author J. D. Mercer dares to tell ALL the truth! As a self-confessed and self-accepting ambisexual, he gives you the first positive approach to homosexuality and other sex variations heretofore shielded by taboos, prejudice and ignorance. He regards his topics not as "problems" needing "cures," but with insight, courage and rational analysis, he reveals why most sexual expressions are natural and normal to homo-sapiens.

MR. MERCER analyzes Kinsey statistics, draws reasonable conclusions from them, particularly as to American male sex behavior when contrasted with the limited sex activity permitted by our archaic legal codes. These laws not only prohibit activities of several million sex variants in the U. S., but most so-called "normal" forms of varied sex expression as well! This book is a "First" in that it covers these sex variations from the standpoints of history, literature, ethics, anthropology, endocrinology, psychology, genetics, physiology, the judiciary, the law, etc., ALL IN ONE VOLUME.

THIS BOOK makes a forthright expose of our statutory sex laws and anti-sex attitudes. It is a MUST for all who want to know where they "fit in" and how our out-moded sex laws CAN affect YOU!

THEY WALK IN SHADOW may be banned. Get your copy NOW! Copies ordered from Cosmo Book Sales will be autographed by the author upon request. Send $3.95 plus 20c postage to:

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(If you send 10 or more names and addresses of people you think would like to know about this book, yours will be sent without charge for postage.)

READERS RESPOND

"MANY THANKS FOR THE LAST SAMPLE OF YOUR REVIEW. YOU DON'T FORGET YOUR BELGIAN FRIEND, HOWEVER, HOW MUCH MILES BETWEEN US? BUT, WHEN TWO PEOPLE ARE RIGHT UPON THE SAME POINT THEY FIND NOTHING DIFFICULTIES TO BE UNITED, IN SPITE OF THE OCEAN!"

R.D., BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

* * * * *

"DR. ALEXANDER SIMON OF THE LANGLEY PORTER NEUROPSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE HAS REFERRED ME TO YOUR ORGANIZATION AS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND LITERATURE ON THE MEDICAL, LEGAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF HOMOSEXUAL ADULTS.

"I HAVE IN MY FILES A COPY OF THE AUGUST, 1958, ISSUE OF THE LADDER AND I NOTE ON PAGE 16 A REVIEW OF BOOKS ON 'LESBIANA'. DO YOU HAVE A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THIS SUBJECT, COPY OF WHICH I MAY OBTAIN, AND DO YOU ALSO KNOW OF ANY REPRINTS OR SMALL BOOKLETS, PAMPHLETS, ETC., WHICH I MAY OBTAIN COVERING THIS SUBJECT?

"THE PURPOSE OF THIS ORGANIZATION IN COLLECTING ALL AVAILABLE DATA RELATIVE TO THE MEDICAL, LEGAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE HOMOSEXUAL ADULT IS TO INCORPORATE THIS SUBJECT INTO OUR 'R_x AIDS FOR RECOVERY' PROGRAM WHICH WE ARE DESIGNING. THIS PROGRAM, IF CARRIED OUT ACCORDING TO PRESENT PLANS, WILL ENABLE THE PHYSICIAN TO RECOMMEND FOR THE PATIENT ANY TYPE OF LITERATURE COVERING ANY MEDICAL PROBLEMS WHICH CAN BE WRITTEN UP INTO BOOKLET OR PAMPHLET FORMS, AND WILL ALSO INCLUDE LITERATURE WRITTEN IN LAYMEN'S LANGUAGE WHICH WILL COVER MANY 'MEDICAL-LEGAL-SOCIAL' BORDERLINE PROBLEMS OF THE PATIENT WHICH WILL HELP HIM TO 'LIVE' WITH HIS PROBLEM OR AID HIM IN SEEKING HELP OR GIVE HIM (OR HER) EDUCATIONAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE INFORMATION REQUIRED TO HELP IN SOLVING WHATEVER PROBLEM IS IMMEDIATELY FACING THE INDIVIDUAL.

"THE MEMBERSHIP OF THIS MEDICAL SOCIETY FEELS VERY STRONGLY REGARDING THE LACK OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE BOTH TO THE HOMOSEXUAL

AND THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE MEDICAL, LEGAL AND SOCIAL POSITION OF SUCH INDIVIDUALS. WE PARTICULARLY FEEL THAT MORE UNDERSTANDING, HELP AND TOLERANCE ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AND PERHAPS BY INTRODUCING THIS SUBJECT, WITH AS COMPLETE COVERAGE AS POSSIBLE BY THE PROPERLY WRITTEN BOOKLETS, WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO THE GREAT NEED IN OUR SOCIETY TODAY FOR MAKING A 'COMFORTABLE' PLACE IN IT FOR THE HOMOSEXUAL PERSON."

PAUL L. SINGER, M.D., PRESIDENT,
MARICOPA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

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"IN THE JANUARY LADDER DR. R. S. BANAY SAYS THAT PSYCHOTHERAPY CAN BE EFFECTIVE IN TREATMENT OF HOMOSEXUALS ONLY IF THOSE SO AFFLICTED ARE STRONGLY MOTIVATED TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM. HE, IN THE NEXT BREATH GOES ON TO SAY: 'THERAPY SHOULD BE MADE COMPULSORY.'

"SEEMS TO ME THAT IF TREATMENT IS COMPULSORY IT STILL WON'T DO THOSE WHO DON'T WANT IT ANY GOOD AT ALL, AND WOULD CERTAINLY BE A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY. THO' I AM CERTAINLY IN FULL ACCORD WITH HAVING A CLINIC AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO DO WANT HELP."

M.L., WEST WARWICK, R. I.

* * * * *

"YOUR JANUARY ISSUE WAS THOROUGHLY ENJOYED. ONE QUESTION DID ARISE, HOWEVER, WHEN I READ DR. BANAY'S COMMENTS ON PAGE 14. HE STATES THAT IF PSYCHOTHERAPY IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL THE INDIVIDUAL SEEKING TREATMENT SHOULD BE HIGHLY MOTIVATED. THIS I KNOW IS TRUE FOR ANYONE SEEKING PSYCHOTHERAPY - IN FACT THEY TEACH US NOW THAT

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IT IS A PRIME PRECURSOR TO EFFECTIVE TREATMENT THAT THE INDIVIDUAL NOT ONLY BE HIGHLY MOTIVATED, BUT SEEK THIS TREATMENT VOLUNTARILY. DR. BANAY ALSO STATES THAT THERAPY SHOULD BE COMPULSORY. THIS, TO ME, IS AT COMPLETE ANTITHESIS TO HIS FORMER STATEMENT.

"FOR PSYCHOTHERAPY TO BE TRULY EFFECTIVE THE INDIVIDUAL MUST BE MOTIVATED TO SEEK TREATMENT ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. I AM NOW SPEAKING OF HOMOSEXUALITY AND VARIOUS NEUROSES, NOT OF COURSE THE PSYCHOTIC CONDITIONS. THE NECESSITY OF ESTABLISHING ANY TYPE OF MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC IS VERY REAL AND GREATLY NEEDED THROUGHOUT THE STATE. WE DO HAVE IN CALIFORNIA SOME VERY FINE CLINICS, BUT THEY ARE TOO FEW AS YET."

F.P., LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

* * * * *

"HAD THE PLEASURE OF HEARING RECENTLY AN ADDRESS ON 'THE IMPORTANCE OF DISSENT', GIVEN BY GEORGE KIRSTEIN, PUBLISHER OF 'THE NATION', IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED, ONE OF THE QUESTIONS RAISED WAS 'THE RIGHTS OF HOMOSEXUALS AS DISSENTERS.' REFERRAL WAS MADE TO THE WOLFENDEN REPORT, AND DR. KARL BOWMAN'S FAVORABLE SPEECH APPEARING IN THE OCTOBER 25TH ISSUE OF 'THE NATION'.

"IN THAT SAME ISSUE, AN EDITORIAL COMMENTED ON THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB'S REFUSAL TO RELEASE DR. BOWMAN'S PAPER FOR RADIO BROADCAST: 'ALL OTHER QUESTIONS ASIDE, THE CLUB'S ATTITUDE IS AN AFFRONT TO COMMON SENSE. DR. BOWMAN'S SUBJECT WAS THE LAW, AND IF PEOPLE CANNOT BE INFORMED ABOUT THE ISSUES INVOLVED, AND DISCUSS THEM PUBLICLY, WHAT KIND OF A DEMOCRACY DO WE HAVE? APPARENTLY IT IS THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB'S THESIS THAT THE ONLY PLACE TO DISCUSS SEX IS OVER CHICKEN A LA KING ON FRIDAYS AT THE SHERATON-PALACE HOTEL.'

"IN CONCLUSION, MR. KIRSTEIN PREDICTED AN ERA OF MANY CHANGES IN ALL AREAS WITHIN A VERY FEW YEARS. TO THIS END, I CONGRATULATE THE COURAGEOUS PUBLICATIONS THAT WOULD BRING THE TOUCHING PROBLEMS OF OUR TIMES OUT INTO THE OPEN."

B.S., SAN LEANDRO, CALIF.

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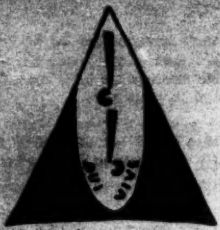
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